

completely, our ports and harbours—will meet our consideration under the influence of the same just regard for the security, interest and honour, of our country, which dictated your recommendation.

Practices so unnatural and iniquitous, as those you state, of our own citizens, converting their property and personal exertions into the means of annoying our trade; and injuring their fellow-citizens, deserve legal severity commensurate with their turpitude.

Although the senate believe that the prosperity and happiness of our country do not depend on general and extensive political connexions with European nations, yet we can never lose sight of the propriety as well as necessity of enabling the executive, by sufficient and liberal supplies, to maintain, and even extend our foreign intercourse, as exigencies may require, reposing full confidence in the executive, in whom the constitution has placed the powers of negotiation.

We learn with sincere concern, that attempts are in operation to alienate the affections of our fellow-citizens from their government. Attempts so wicked, wherever they exist, cannot fail to excite our utmost abhorrence. A government chosen by the people for their own safety and happiness, and calculated to secure both, cannot lose their affections, so long as its administration pursues the principles upon which it was erected.—And your resolution to observe a conduct just and impartial to all nations, a sacred regard to our national engagements, and not to impair the rights of our government, contains principles which cannot fail to secure to your administration the support of the national legislature, to render abortive every attempt to excite dangerous jealousies among us, and to convince the world that our government and your administration of it cannot be separated from the affectionate support of every good citizen.—And the senate cannot suffer the present occasion to pass, without thus publicly and solemnly expressing their attachment to the constitution and government of their country, and as they hold themselves responsible to their constituents, their consciences, and their God, it is their determination by all their exertions to repel every attempt to alienate the affections of the people from the government, so highly injurious to the honour, safety, and independence of the United States.

We are happy, since our sentiments on the subject are in perfect unison with yours, in this public manner to declare that we believe the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations, and that those internal regulations which have been established for the preservation of peace, are in their nature proper, and have been fairly executed.

And we are equally happy in possessing an entire confidence in your abilities and exertions in your station, to maintain untarnished, the honour, preserve the peace, and support the independence of our country; to acquire and establish which, in connexion with your fellow-citizens, has been the virtuous effort of a part of your life.

To aid you in the honourable and arduous exertions, as it is our duty, so it shall be our faithful endeavour. And we flatter ourselves, Sir, that the proceedings of the present session of congress will manifest to the world that although the United States love peace, they will be independent. That they are sincere in their declarations to be just to the French, and all other nations, and expect the same in return.

If a sense of justice, a love of moderation and peace, shall influence their councils, which we sincerely hope, we shall have just grounds to expect, peace and amity between the United States and all nations will be preserved.

But if we are so unfortunate, as to experience injuries from any foreign power, and the ordinary methods by which differences are amicably adjusted between nations shall be rejected—The determination "not to surrender in any manner the rights of the government," being so inseparably connected with the dignity, interest, and independence of our country, shall, by us, be steadily and inviolably supported.

THOMAS JEFFERSON,
Vice-President of the United
States, and President of the
Senate.

To which the president made the following
REPLY.

Mr. Vice President, and
Gentlemen of the Senate,

IT would be an affectation in me to dissemble the pleasure I feel in receiving this kind address.

My long experience of the wisdom, fortitude, and patriotism of the senate of the United States, enhances, in my estimation, the value of those obliging expressions of your approbation of my conduct, which are a generous reward for the past, and an affecting encouragement to constancy and perseverance in future.

Our sentiments appear to be so entirely in unison, that I cannot but believe them to be the rational result of the understandings, and the natural feelings of the hearts of Americans in general, in contemplating the present state of the nation.

While such principles and affections prevail, they will form an indissoluble bond of union, and a sure pledge, that our country has no essential injury to apprehend, from any portentous appearances abroad. In a humble reliance on Divine Providence, we may rest assured, that while we reiterate with sincerity, our endeavours to accommodate all our differences with France, the independence of our country cannot be diminished, its dignity degraded, or its glory tarnished, by any nation, or combination of nations, whether friends or enemies.

JOHN ADAMS.

BALTIMORE, May 27.

A gentleman at Philadelphia, for whose correspondence we have reason to be thankful, mentions, in his letter of yesterday, that the Commissioners appointed under the treaty with Great-Britain, proceeded, on Thursday last, to choose the fifth commissioner by ballot, and the votes being between Mr. Ames and Mr. Gilmer, the latter was chosen.

A gentleman who arrived in the General Wayne, from Bourdeaux, observes—That the late election has closed in the choice of such men as will use their influence to restore a good understanding between France and America. This circumstance was thought to be pleasing to a large majority of that nation, who, they say, must now look to moderate legislators for justice and protection.—Americans must be highly pleased at this event—it looks pacific.

May 29.

TREMENDOUS STORM.

The storm that happened on Saturday evening, was one of the most awful and tremendous that we remember ever to have experienced, and could not fail to impress the mind with dread and horror. The explosions of lightning and thunder, succeeded each other with such rapidity, that scarcely an interval of an instant was observable between them; and the sharpness of the lightning and excessive violence of the thunder, joined with torrents of rain and hail, made the scene, while it lasted, undeliberably fearful. Two houses at Fell's Point, near the Methodist meeting-house, were struck by the lightning, and considerably injured. There is something extremely singular and astonishing in the progress and effects of the electric matter in both instances. One of the houses is the residence of a Mr. Mouchette: The lightning appears to have fallen on the chimney, the top of which it threw down, and immediately to have divided into two streams; one of them, descending the chimney, pierced the roof, passed into the upper room, through the ceiling, and issued through a pane of glass, which it so completely shattered, that not a particle was left in the last.

The other stream ran from the chimney along the edge of the roof to the corner, where it tore off a great number of the shingles; from this part it changed its course, ran across the gable end, (which it injured greatly by bulging it considerably outward) till it reached a tin water spout on the opposite corner; passing down the spout to its extremity, which was about three or four feet from the ground, it again divided into three other streams; one continued down to the earth, passing through a tub that was placed under the spout, forced the water entirely out of the tub, and made a hole in the bottom of it.—A second stream darted through the brick wall about two or three feet from the floor; a third passed the same wall, below the other, and in its way tore the wash board entirely to pieces. A gentleman and lady were sitting in the room at tea, the table close to the wall where the lightning entered; the lady, extremely alarmed, had just placed her cup upon the table, her hand resting in contact with it. The gentleman had risen from his chair, and had rested his hand upon that which the lady was sitting on, endeavouring to encourage her against the apprehensions under which she laboured. In this situation, the higher stream of the two last traced, struck the chair on which she was sitting—split the bottom to pieces—passed up the back, which it also shattered—struck the gentleman's hand, which it bruised and swelled considerably—flew from thence across the table, and in its way broke the cup, against which the lady's hand rested, to pieces!!! A more miraculous escape from the fatal violence of this irresistible element, was never perhaps known; and how they escaped, that almighty power, whose will directs its course alone can tell. It is doubtless one of those merciful interventions which now and then occur, to warn us of our subjection to, and dependence on, the infinite power and infinite goodness of God, and of our duty towards him.

Perhaps no fact or experiment could more clearly demonstrate the great utility of metallic conductors, for the prevention of those mischiefs and damages to which houses are liable from lightning, than the course which the second principal stream took, from the corner of the roof to the water spout on the opposite side of the gable end. Without doubt it was attracted by the metal of which the spout was made.

When we have it so much in our power to direct the course of lightning, through means of the well-known property in metals, to attract and conduct it, and to prevent thereby all risk and danger, it is surprising that so few houses are provided with conductors. It is earnestly hoped that the inhabitants will pay proper regard to this matter. Four instances, at least, of houses struck by lightning, have happened in this city within a few days; and if no life has been lost, it could only happen through the divine mercy.

The other house that was affected by the lightning on Saturday, was that of a Mr. Harrison, on the Point, which is distant about eighty or a hundred yards from the Mr. Mouchette's. A flash entered at a window above, and destroyed twelve panes of glass. A woman, at the instant that the flash entered, was attempting to let the window down; fortunately, from the position of a bed, she was obliged to stand on one side, and the stream passed immediately before her body, but without striking her.—She fell instantly senseless, but she very soon after recovered. In its way it shattered the moulding of the window. From the window, it appears to have taken its course to the chimney, from the back of which it tore a brick, and hurled it between the bed and sacking bottom, where it was found.

A branch of the same stream seems to have entered a window of the lower room where the family were collected—shattered the glass, and knocked down all that

were in the room. Happily none were materially injured. To the senses, the room at the moment of the explosion, seemed filled with fire.

May 31.

We have accounts from New Orleans of a late date, which state, that the Spanish governor there has prohibited the running of the line, according to treaty with the United States, until the settlers under the Spanish titles shall be confirmed in their possessions.

Annapolis, June 1.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.
The INSPECTOR, No. XIV.

Liberius fi

Dixero quid, si forte jocosus: hoc mihi juris
Cum venia dabis.

HOR.

THERE is scarcely any man so perfectly free from emotions of vanity, or so careless about the opinion of the world, as to avoid an opportunity of hearing what is said of himself. No person believes himself destitute of merit, or altogether unworthy of praise, and as he is never desirous of concealing his good qualities, he generally wishes to discover what effect the knowledge of them has upon the world. Indeed, if he has reason to suppose that any observation was intended for his hearing, and especially if spoken, knowingly, in his presence, he will regard it either as the meanness of flattery, or the insolence of insult. But when he has sufficient cause to believe the remark was not intended to come within his knowledge, he must naturally conclude, that it is the real opinion of the person who speaks. When a man of acknowledged merit expresses his opinion, in terms of approbation, the person spoken of cannot suppose himself entirely undeserving; and if, on the contrary, a person hear himself censured by the man he respects, he must conclude, that he is guilty of some faults which ought to be corrected.

The Inspector has the singular felicity of hearing almost every observation made upon his performance, and as he is so prudent as to remain unknown, he frequently hears himself condemned or praised, according to the taste of his different readers. Being conscious of this advantage, I enter into all companies, and talk of myself with as much freedom as any other person; by this means I am enabled to discover the opinion of every one with respect to my publication, that is, of those who have taken the trouble to form an opinion. Indeed, I cannot boast of having my ears constantly tickled by hearing my own commendations, as I frequently listen to the most unlimited censure, very liberally bestowed upon me. However, I am as often diverted as mortified at the observations of my satirical readers. For men who do not understand will often censure. I have sometimes heard myself condemned for personality, at others, as used as a contemptible blockhead, and very often accused of plagiarising. As I mean not to engage in a justification of myself, I shall not contradict one title or reproach, with which I have been loaded, but shall barely set down, *verbatim*, some of the most acute and critical observations of my dissatisfied readers; both for my own satisfaction and the amusement of the public.

I was one evening in company with some gentlemen of the above description, and conversation being rather dull, one of them introduced the subject of my publication, by "wondering who the Inspector was?" As none of us gave him a satisfactory answer, he proceeded—"I think it the most puerile contemptible performance that ever disgraced a news-paper. What he means by some of his papers, we can be at no loss to determine, as they are evidently pointed at some private individuals, but he has not wit enough to make his characters fit, and has not drawn a single portrait, that has even the most distant resemblance to the original. This shews at once the badness of his disposition, and the contemptibleness of his talents, as it is plain he wishes to assassinate the reputation of individuals, if the barrenness of his brain did not check the asperity of his disposition.—As to his philosophy and morals, I wonder at the impudence of the man; in setting himself up as censor of the times. I am sure the town stards in no need of his instruction, nor of any other person's, being fully capable of conducting themselves without any guide. I rather suspect the Inspector himself wants some wholesome advice, and if I could actually discover who is the author, I would, out of pure generosity, persuade him to decline the office he has imprudently taken upon himself, as his publication clearly demonstrates to every reader, that his abilities are inadequate to the task. If the poor fellow means only to amuse us, he certainly deserves credit for the goodness of his intentions. But he is most woefully disappointed in his expectations, as I am confident no person of *true taste* ever read one of his numbers. All my knowledge of him, or his performance, is derived from conversing with persons who, merely out of curiosity, have perused some of his pieces. They told me, that some of his papers they could not rightly comprehend; as there are blanks left, which they supposed rendered it unintelligible, though very suspicious. Now, as to this custom of leaving blanks, I think it highly improper. They say it is customary, but I must believe it a bad custom. For he may, by leaving these blanks, frequently abuse every one in town, without any person's being able to discover his intention. Some of my friends have told me that he imitated a book called the Spectator, and I believe the fact is so. For although I never read the Spectator, yet I am certain the Inspector could not write, without stealing from some author."